(d) Time limits have been specified for completion of various proceedings under the Income-tax Act. Suitable administrative measures are also taken from time to time for early finalisation of such proceedings.

[*English*]

Import of Computer System

5954. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:
SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a public notification allowing import of all electronic equipment systems other than electronic goods against exim scrip has been issued recently;

(b) whether as per the present policy the Customs authorities can allow import of computer system against eximscrips;

(c) whether the Government are also aware that due to contrary directives given to the customs authorities, huge consignments of computer systems are being held up at various ports;

(d) whether the Indian computer industry has sought temporary protection against the import of computer system; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) It was reported that a number of consignments of computer systems had arrived at various ports for clearence against Eximscrip and it was clarified that imports of computers and computer-based systems were not permitted against Eximscrips.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Computer systems including personal computers of CIF value below Rs.6 lakh have been put in the Negative List of Imports in the Export & Import Policy, 1992-97 announced on 31st March, 1992.

Wholesale and Consumer Price Indices

5955. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest number of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index of different groups of articles.

(b) how do these compare with figures of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to contain rise in these indices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). The latest wholesale price index (WPI) and consumer price index (CPI) for industrial workers of different groups of articles and corresponding numbers for the last three years are given in the statement attached.

(c) In order to contain rise in these indices, Government has initiated a number of measures. These include: strict fiscal discipline through reduction in fiscal deficit, growth of money supply and bank credit against price-sensitive essential commodities, more effective management of supply and demand of essential/sensitive commodities, and strict action against hoarders and profiters. Incentives are being provided for raising production to ensure medium-term stability in prices.

STATEMENT

1. Wholesale Price Index (Group-wise) for 14th March, 1992 and correspondng lat three years (Base: 1981-821100)

	Group Articles	Index			
		11 March 1989	*17 March 1990*	*16 March 1991*	*14 March 1992**
	All Commiodities	156.5	169.6	191.6	216.5
II.	Primary Articles	156.7	166.2	195.5	229.4
A.	Food articles	174.2	176.9	211.5	257.6
(a)	Food-grains	166.9	158.8	196.5	246.7
(b)	Fruits & Vegetables	157.5	164.6	206.0	242.9
B.	Non-Food articels	154.1	174.9	209.2	235.6
C.	Minerals	98.8	109.5	109.0	114.6
II	Fuel, Power, Light & Lubricants	155.2	157.6	188.6	213.6
III.	Manufactured Products	156.6	173.7	190.0	209.7
(a)	Food-products	147.8	166.2	190.8	210.7

*Provisional.

2. Consumer Price Index for industrial workers (Group-wise) for January 1992 and corresponding last three years (Base: 1982=100)

	Group Articles	Index			
		11 March 1989	*17 March 1990*	*16 March 1991*	*14 March 1992**
	General	165	174	202	228
1.	Food	170	175	211	242
2.	Pan, supari, tobacco and intoxicants	195	229	249	288
3.	Fuel and light	164	173	197	207
4.	Hosing	165	178	192	206
5.	Clothing, bedding and foot-wear	128	145	153	174
6.	Miscellaneous	161	176	193	219